



The risks and advantages of framing science [1]

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Abstract:

The Policy Forum "Framing science" by M. C. Nisbet and C. Mooney argues that because different audiences respond differently to certain science-based public policy issues, scientists should trade their reliance on fact-based arguments for ones more slanted toward the interests of specific groups. Their examples—climate change, evolution, and stem cells—seem all too similar to the parable of the blind men and the elephant, each man describing the beast differently based on his own limited data. In the end, although each describes a portion of the elephant accurately, none can picture the entire animal. That seems more a model for politicians than scientists, and Nisbet and Mooney's advice that "scientists should strategically avoid emphasizing the technical details of science when trying to defend it" seems somewhat dishonest. I would hope that researchers continue to rely on their data, rather than on what "spin" on an issue might prove more convincing.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.317.5842.1168a>

Resource Description

Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker, Researcher

Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

Geographic Feature: ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified